

Message Text

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SUBJ: COMPULSORY PILOTAGE REGULATIONS AT JIDDA REINFORCED

1. DR. FAYEZ BADR, PRESIDENT OF THE SAUDI PORTS AUTHORITY,
ISSUED THE FOLLOWING CIRCULAR RE SUBJECT ON JANUARY 14, 1978.
QUOTE: ARTICLE 24 CHAPTER 2 SECTION THREE OF SEA PORT AND
LIGHT HOUSE LAWS ISSUED UNDER THE ROYAL DECREE NUMBER
M/24 OF 24-6-1394 AH. STIPULATES THAT PILOTAGE IS COMPULSORY
AGAINST THE PAYMENT OF FIXED FEES, FOR ALL SHIPS ENTERING
THE PILOTAGE ZONE, OR SAILING INSIDE THE SEA PORT OR
LEAVING THE SEA PORT. A NUMBER OF MASTERS OF VESSELS
HAVE BEEN FOUND TO BE CONTRAVENING THIS LAW. AS A RESULT
IN SOME CASES SERIOUS ACCIDENTS HAVE CAUSED LOSSES OF
LIFE AND TEMPORARY BLOCKAGE OF THE NAVIGATIONAL
CHANNELS OF THE PORT.

IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE AGAINST ANY FUTURE VIOLATIONS THAT
MAY HAZARD THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF THE KINGDOM PORTS
IT HAS BEEN DECIDED THAT A VERY SERIOUS VIEW SHALL BE
TAKEN AGAINST THE MASTER/VESSELS VIOLATING THE ABOVE
MENTIONED SEA PORT AND LIGHT HOUSE LAW.
UNDER THE ROYAL DECREE MENTIONED ABOVE AND COUNCIL OF
MINISTER'S RESOLUTION NO. 934 OF 19-6-1394 AH. ANY MASTER /
VESSEL CONTRAVENING THE ABOVE REGULATIONS BY PROCEEDING

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WITHOUT A PILOT IN THE PILOTAGE ZONE, SHALL BE SUBJECT
TO ANY OR ALL THE FOLLOWING PENALTIES:
A) FINE UPTO FIFTY THOUSAND SAUDI RIYASLS.
B) PREVENTING THE VESSEL FROM UNLOADING OR DELAYING ITS
SAILING FOR A PERIOD OF ONE WEEK.
C) DEBARRING THE MASTER OF THE VESSEL ENTERING THE
KINGDOM PORTS IN CHARGE OF ANY VESSEL FOR A PERIOD OF

NOT LESS THAN SIX MONTHS, AND TO ANNOUNCE HIS VIOLATION
TO ALL SHIPPING COMPANIES, SHIPPING CONFERENCE AND PORTS.

D) ENDORSEMENT ON THE MASTER'S CERTIFICATE IF HE IS A
SAUDI NATIONAL AND TO PREVENT HIM FROM WORKING ON BOARD
ANY VESSEL FOR A PERIOD NOT LESS THAN SIX MONTHS.

E) THE MASTER/VESSEL/OWNER/CHARTERER SHALL BE HELD LIABLE
FOR ALL COSTS, LOSSES, DAMAGES, ANY CONSEQUENTIAL CHARGES
INCURRED BY THE PORT ON ACCOUNT OF VIOLATIONS MENTIONED
ABOVE.

THIS CIRCULAR DOES NOT APPLY TO VESSELS EXEMPTED FROM
PILOTAGE AS MENTIONED IN ARTICLE 26 CHAPTER 2 SECTION
THREE OF PORT AND LIGHT HOUSE LAWS, END QUOTE.

2. COMMENT : DURING THE HEAVY PORT TRAFFIC IN THE
PRECEDING TWO YEARS, MANY SHIP CAPTAINS
NEGLECTED USING PORT PILOTAGE WHICH COULD
TAKE DAYS TO ARRANGE. THE PRACTICE HAS CONTINUED
DESPITE CONSIDERABLE EASING OF TRAFFIC. ACTUALLY, THE
PORT OF JIDDA NOW HAS EXPERIENCED EMPTY BERTH SITUATIONS.
ABOVE REINFORCEMENT OF LAWS REFLECTS RETURN TO NORMALCY
AT PORT. THE TYPE OF VESSELS EXEMPT FROM PILOTAGE ARE
SMALL YACHTS AND PLEASURE BOATS REGISTERED IN SAUDI ARABIA
AND SAUDI COAST GUARD VESSELS ACCORDING TO PORT OFFICIAL.
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